

Friends Find a Way

Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 267-271

Do you know someone who has a very serious disease? If they needed to see a doctor, would you rip off the hospital roof to get them inside? One sick man's friends did something like that!

If you had taken a walk in the town of Capernaum one certain day, you would probably have heard, "Jesus is in town! Jesus is in town!"

A crowd of people hurried to a house where Jesus was healing and teaching. And what a crowd it was! There was no room inside the house. There was no room in the yard either. All kinds of people were in that house with Jesus: Pharisees, teachers of the law, ordinary people, and many, many sick people.

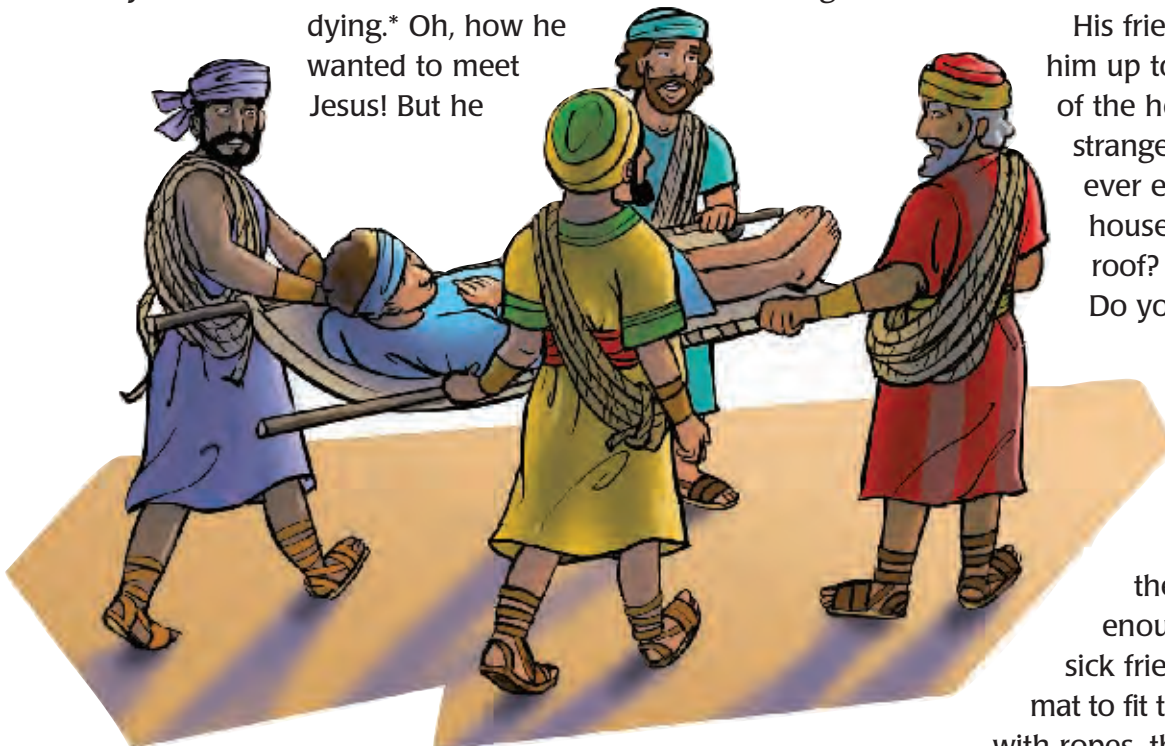
A very sick man in that town was dying.* Oh, how he wanted to meet Jesus! But he

had a problem. He was paralyzed. How could he get to Jesus? He couldn't move. All he could do was lie on his bed and think about how sinful and sick he was. If only he could meet Jesus! He just knew that Jesus would forgive his sins and make him well.

The paralyzed man was fortunate in at least one way. He had four very good friends who were happy to carry him to Jesus. Each took a corner of his mat, and off they went. But when they found the house where Jesus was healing, they couldn't reach Jesus. There were people everywhere. No one would let them through the crowd. So near and yet so far!

The sick man was worried that he wouldn't see Jesus after all. What could he and his four friends do? There had to be a way to get through that crowd.

His friends took him up to the roof of the house. How strange! Have you ever entered a house from the roof? It isn't easy. Do you know what the four friends did next? They made a hole in the roof—big enough for their sick friend and his mat to fit through. Then, with ropes, they let the



The Message

I serve Jesus when I bring others to Him.

Memory Verse

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love"

(Romans 12:10, NIV).

sick man on his mat down, down, down. He landed right in front of Jesus!

Jesus' eyes were so kind. He said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Forgiven, I'm forgiven! the man said to himself. That was what he longed for, and now it had happened! What a happy day!

The Pharisees and teachers of the law were not happy about this. They had already refused to help this man because of his sins. They thought to themselves, *How dare Jesus try to forgive sins! Only God can forgive sins!*

Jesus could read their minds. He spoke strongly to them, "Why are you thinking these things? People need to be helped. Which is easier: to say you are forgiven, or to say you

are healed? You will soon know that I can forgive sins on earth!"

Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Rise up, take your bed, and go back to your house!" Suddenly the man could move his legs and his arms. He was healed all over! He got up, rolled up his mat, carried it out of the room, and headed home. This time the crowd let him through!

Everyone was amazed and praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

The four friends were really happy that they had brought their friend to Jesus. How about you? Do you want to bring someone to Jesus?

**See The Desire of Ages, p. 267.*





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go with your family to a quiet place in nature. Sit down together and read your Bible lesson.

READ Find and read Romans 12:10 in your Bible. Discuss it and teach it to your family.

SING Sing a song about loving others, then pray for someone who is sick.

M O N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Mark 2:3, 4 for family worship. How many friends brought the sick man to Jesus?

READ Read what Luke says about the roof in Luke 5:19. What is the roof of your house made of? How easy would it be to make a hole in it?

DO Why did the sick man's friends work so hard to bring him to Jesus? (Hint: say your memory verse.) Ask Jesus to help you always to be willing to help your friends.

SING Sing "We Are His Hands" (Sing for Joy, No. 129).



House roofs in Bible times were flat. Stairs from outside usually went onto the roof.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship read and discuss Mark 2:1, 2.

DO Find Capernaum on a Bible map. (Look near the Sea of Galilee.) About how far is it from Nazareth? Which direction would you travel if leaving Nazareth for Capernaum? How did people get from one place to another in Jesus' time? How do you think Jesus got from Nazareth to Capernaum?

DO Make a heart drawing and write your memory verse on it. Put it where you will see it when you wake up each morning. Thank Jesus for His love for you.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Mark 2:5 during family worship. The friends did not give up! What did Jesus think of what they did?

DO Try to find out how houses were built in Jesus' time. (Hint: Look in an encyclopedia.)

DO Work with your family as a team to do something helpful at home today. Then thank Jesus for your home.

SING Make up a tune for your memory verse and sing it together.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Read and discuss Mark 2:6, 7 for family worship. How did the teachers of the law feel when Jesus forgave the man's sins? How do you feel when someone's sins are forgiven?

DO Write about or draw a picture of one thing you will do (or have done) this week to bring a friend closer to Jesus. Share it with your family. Ask them to pray with you while you pray for your friend.

DO Sing or say your memory verse together.



THURSDAY

DO Read and discuss Mark 2:8-12 with your family. Tell in your own words why Jesus healed the man. Then read Mark 2:10 again. Were you right?

DO Tie some string to the four corners of a small towel. Put a book in the towel and lower it from a chair to the floor. How easy would it be to lower a person from the roof to the floor?

THINK Where can you bring someone to meet Jesus?

DO Say your memory verse without help. Then tell what it means to you.

SING Sing together "This Little Light of Mine" (Sing for Joy, No. 134). Then ask Jesus to help you bring someone to Him.

FRIDAY

DO Write the following, each on a different piece of paper: SICK MAN, JESUS, FOUR FRIENDS, CROWD. Divide these papers among your family. Then act out the Bible story with your family playing the part of the character(s) written on their paper.

DO Think of the person you chose to bring to Jesus this week. Draw a picture of what you did. Take your picture to Sabbath School tomorrow.

DO Ask your family to read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Sing or say your memory verse together. Then ask God to fill your hearts and lives with His love for others.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Help the four friends find a way to take their friend to Jesus.

